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SPEECH

OF

SIR JAMES A. GRANT, M.P.

ON

THE ADDRESS

OTTAWA, FRIDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1894

96/65
Sir JAMES GRANT. Mr. Speaker, within the year that has just passed two very important events have transpired. We have parted with one representative of Her Majesty, and we have received the nobleman who recently arrived amongst us and is the present representative of Her Majesty in this Dominion. During the sojourn of Lord Derby and Lady Derby in this country they endeared themselves to the people, and he, by his wise judgment and discretion, by his long practical experience as a legislator and his occupancy of important positions in the Government of Great Britain, so discharged the serious responsibility of presiding over the destinies of this great Dominion as to reflect great credit on himself and to carry back to England the warmest possible regards of the people of this country. As for Lady Derby, she endeared herself to everyone with whom she came in contact. She took an active interest in our people, in our institutions, in everything that tended to the welfare of our people, and in leaving Canada she left behind her tangible proof of the work she was desirous of accomplishing, the establishment of an institution in the capital of the Dominion known as the "Stanley Institute," which is a credit to her name and her reputation. The wish of the people of this country is that in leaving Canada they may be long spared to enjoy the

ease and affluence which have recently descended to them, and in doing so I feel satisfied that throughout the length and breadth of Canada there is but one wish that they may be long spared to undertake works of practical usefulness which await them in the great centres of England. We have also received here within a very short time a nobleman and lady, Lord and Lady Aberdeen, whose names went before them, inasmuch as they lived in Canada for a short time, and although that period itself was extremely short, still they endeared themselves to the people with whom they came specially in contact in that Garden of Eden, as I might call it, Hamilton, one of the cities of Ontario, so that when they left Canada there was a unanimous wish felt among the people throughout the country that we might be so extremely fortunate as to have them here as representing Her Majesty. "The Grand Old Man," whom I am sorry to say is now languishing from sickness, and has been obliged to leave the leadership of that great party over which he presided, in his judgment and discretion selected to come to Canada a nobleman who was Viceroy of Ireland, and who so distinguished himself in that position as to endear himself to every Irishman in that grand old emerald isle, where to-day the shamrock grows so sweetly and luxuriantly.

We rely upon it that not only will the representatives of that Ireland, which we all delight to honour, but all the people of Canada will receive at his hands that degree of justice which is bound to flow from any representative sent to Canada by Her Majesty, as on every occasion she selects the best man possible to preside over the destinies of this important and conspicuous portion of her domain. As for Lady Aberdeen, we know her well. She takes, also, a deep interest in our people, in our institutions, and in everything that appertains to the welfare of the country. I am sure that when, in the ordinary course of events, the time arrives for Their Excellencies to leave Canada, our people will heartily say, God-speed to the Governor General and his lady, who have so largely contributed towards the happiness, the comfort, and the prosperity of the Dominion. Mr. Speaker, I rise with no ordinary degree of pleasure to move the address in response to the Speech from the Throne. Although twenty years have elapsed since I before had the honour of occupying a seat in this Chamber, I still undertake this duty with a considerable degree of hesitancy, inasmuch as I am fully aware that within that time there have been extraordinary advances made in every line of thought, and particularly in the great department of political economy. As one of the representatives of the capital of the Dominion of Canada, I feel satisfied that the compliment that has been paid me is more to the people whom I have the honour to represent, than to myself, personally. Permit me to say, Sir, that, in making this response to the address, I wish to crave the indulgence of the hon. members of this House. Time is an important factor in estimating the development and progress of a country, and certainly the people of Canada have reason to feel proud of what has been accomplished within the past twenty years. If we look around us, in almost every direction we see tangible proof of that advancement. I would ask any sane man who looks into the various lines of thought and development, if he does not observe in this the full and thorough determination of the people of Canada (notwithstanding the difficulties they have had to contend against) to maintain the spirit of independence and reliance on themselves. It all convinces me that our people are rapidly attaining the point of the maintenance of the true spirit of national development. I know of nothing that has tended more to bring our people together than the grand principles of confederation. It has cemented the various provinces, it has developed interprovincial trade and commerce, and it has caused us to know their legislators, who have been brought up here from time to time, and who have taken so active and so energetic a part in the affairs of this House that—as the Hon. Sir Hibbert Tupper

pointed out in Hamilton a few days ago in his admirable address on "Canadian Footprints"—we look to the Maritime Provinces as a nursery of great men. These provinces have contributed to our public life a class of men who have always taken an active and energetic part in the advancement of this country. Before the principles of confederation were thoroughly carried out, the Maritime Provinces traded with Boston and New York, and the contiguous portions of the United States; but since confederation what do we find? That we in this part of Canada are taking their coal, that they are taking our flour, that in every way trade and commerce has sprung up between us, and that by our interchange of ideas we are daily becoming more closely allied to each other. The hon. members of this House need not be told what the Canadian Pacific Railway has accomplished in the progress of our great country. I might say, Sir, that I hold in my hand to-day the bill presented to me by the late Sir John Abbott when he was taking an active part on the floor of this House, who then expressed his wish to me that I should introduce the Canadian Pacific Railway Bill. He formulated the principles of it, and I had the pleasure of introducing it on the 20th day of April, 1872, and of addressing the House on the importance of that great highway. We are to-day realizing the importance of the construction of that railway in every sense of the term. We find that trade and commerce have developed to an extraordinary degree. In the present state of depression that railway has no doubt difficulties to contend against, as almost any railway on this side of the Atlantic has, but notwithstanding that, I am satisfied that it will be able to stem the current, to float on as for years past, and to assist very materially in the further development of the resources of Canada. I may say that I know perfectly well the sentiments expressed by individuals who have considered the subject, and they are that the shortest route across from the Atlantic to the Pacific would ultimately command the commercial supremacy of this North American continent. We find also that the Government are now inaugurating a system of rapid steam communication between Great Britain and Canada, a policy which will also assist very materially in advancing our position as a country. Twenty years ago, we had only one line of steamers—the Allans—and to them is due a great deal of credit for what they have done in the earlier stages of Canada. We know that if it had not been for the Allans the trade of Canada would be in a backward condition compared to what it is to-day. There are now five lines of steamers sailing from Montreal to European ports, and we will yet have another line in order to enable us to compete with the great Republic to the south of us. We have also those magnificent steamers, sailing from Vancouver to

Japan, China, India and Australia, and they will undoubtedly bring about in time increasing trade with these countries. I read the speech of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce regarding his mission to Australia the other day, and what a regret came to my mind when I thought that had the Grand Old Chieftain been living he would have clapped him on the shoulder and said: Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the time when we shall have a large and important trade with Australia. At the present time the trade of that great country is just what the trade of Great Britain was when Her Majesty ascended the Throne. Is not that an evidence in itself of what Australia has done by the public spirit and self-reliance of its people? And, when we look at our products that are now being exported there, and the manner in which our Canadian mowers and reapers and other agricultural implements are attracting the attention of the farmers in Australia, we see another evidence that the products of Canada, by their superior construction, will command a market no matter where they go. I believe that it is the intention shortly to establish a Canadian depot in Australia. That is a practical idea, and the people of that continent will then know,—as they are shortly going to know in England by the establishment of a depot of a similar character—what are Canadian products and what are not. We know how often spurious articles are put in the market and said to be Canadian when they are truly something else. It is right and proper that our public men should so direct the current of trade with reference to these depots that the products of Canada, no matter where they go, shall be amply and carefully protected from spurious imitations. I am glad to know that a conference is shortly to take place in Ottawa—I believe on the 21st of June—when we shall receive emissaries from Australia who are coming to exchange ideas with the leading men of this country, and to see what means can be adopted for establishing a more extended trade with these provinces. I look forward to the day, not far distant, when the various Australian provinces will be confederated as are the Canadian provinces; and when that takes place, it will not only stimulate the people there to perfect their internal government, but also assist them in promoting their foreign trade. When an individual wants to accomplish anything, he has first to know himself, and then he knows how to deal with others. So it is with the people of a colony. They require to know themselves, to adopt the principles which have been found useful in other colonies, and then they can prosper; and when the various provinces of Australia shall be joined together like the various provinces of Canada, it will stimulate them very materially in carrying out those principles of trade which we have in contemplation. I hope also that the day is not

far distant when we shall have an electric cable laid between this country and Australia. We know that an electric cable is the trade pulse of the world. When the price of a product rises or falls, the fact is at once telegraphed to the various centres of the world. We in Canada need to be up and doing in this matter if we are to hold our own; and I have been very much pleased indeed to find that Mr. Sandford Fleming, a gentleman very well known in this country for his energy and enterprise, especially in connection with the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, should have gone to Australia on his own personal account, and so stimulated the interest of the Australians in the matter that, with reasonable assistance from Canada and Great Britain, I feel satisfied that an Australian cable will before very long be an accomplished fact. A great increase has also taken place in the volume of our trade with the West Indies. This trade was greatly stimulated by the Jamaica exhibition; and chiefly owing to the visit of the Finance Minister and the Canadian Commissioner to that exhibition, Mr. Adam Brown, of Hamilton, we have thus a large source of revenue from those islands. Our products have been successful there for the same reason that they have been successful in the great Chicago exhibition. We know how many prizes have been awarded to us; and they have not come to us from mere chance or accident, but as a result of the energy of our farmers and mechanics; and I am satisfied that the products of this country when placed in competition with the products of any other country in the world, will always be able to stand the test and maintain an equally high standard. We have also had the enormous steamers of the Canadian Pacific Railway ploughing our western lakes, and developing a line of trade there of very great importance. I merely advert to these subjects as indicating the great progress of the country, because they were scarcely known twenty years ago when I formerly occupied a seat on the floor of this House. There are pessimists who say that Canada is going to the dogs, that we hardly amount to anything, that our position is so infinitesimal that we are hardly noticed. But when we look at the resources of this country, at the energy of our people, at the wonderful development of the country in the last twenty years, it is perfectly marvellous how much Canada has to be thankful for, and we can see that a great future is in store for our people. We know perfectly well, Sir, that within the last twelve months an extraordinary financial depression has existed almost throughout the entire world; scarcely any country has escaped from it; the great centres of trade and commerce have been very materially disturbed. But thanks to the energy and perseverance of the various peoples in the world, times are now gradually improving, and I hope the day is not far distant when the general trade of the world

will march forward again with the same progress and advancement that we have seen in the years that are past. Of the various sections of the world, I do not know any where this trade depression has been felt more severely than in Australia. Nearly every bank in Australia—I believe all with the exception of three—went to the wall; and even those three were tested to the utmost capacity. The influence of such a depression was widespread, and was felt in the great financial centres of the world, particularly in England, and why? Because the monetary men of England were induced to invest their capital in the form of deposits in the various Australian banks, and the collapse came when they least expected it. They were induced to put their money there like many other capitalists, by the prospect of high interest; and high interest is never a safe investment. The consequence was that the far-reaching effects of that collapse were experienced in England. Succeeding that almost immediately, an extraordinary cyclone passed over the financial institutions of the United States. They were shaken to their very foundation; and notwithstanding the collapses that we have witnessed in every direction we have never for one moment felt that the people of that great country, whom we admire and respect, whose institutions we have seen grow up almost at our doors, would long fail to revive. We have seen how they paid off the great debt of the American War, when everybody said that it could not be done; we believe they are able to pay everything they owe, and will soon be as prosperous again as ever; yet we saw no less than 158 of their national banks go to the wall, because those banks were not established on the same sound basis as our Canadian banks. They did not possess the same elasticity, and there was not the same opportunity of getting money in a hurry. Thanks to the wisdom and foresight of the public men of this country, our banking arrangements are entirely different; and, as a consequence, the financial institutions of our country have been saved from disaster and have shown the solid and substantial basis on which they rest. We find that to-day the bonds of Canada stand as high in the English market and in other money markets as any other securities; and this we owe largely to the manner in which the monetary institutions of this country have been managed. Again, it is a remarkable fact that in a period of stagnation the associated banks of New York should have accumulated \$236,000,000, while, owing to a want of confidence in the country and a feeling of nervousness on the part of the men who held the purse-strings in the monetary centres, only \$11,000,000 were placed in general circulation from the 19th of August to the 13th of September. This is proof positive of the want of confidence they had in themselves. When large sums of silver were being thrown on the

market, these who held gold locked it up in their vaults, so that this gold, which would have been, under ordinary circumstances, in circulation, was doing no good whatever to the country. Again, it is a remarkable fact that no less than seventy-six railways in the United States passed into the hands of receivers during the past year. Why? Because the railway companies, although they had the securities to cover their indebtedness, were unable to raise money, owing to this lack of confidence and of elasticity in the American banking system, and had to pass into the hands of receivers. And this despite the likelihood of their being able to pay in the near future. If we turn to England, what do we find? England is looked upon, and with reason, as the great centre of the financial world. It is the Mecca to which everyone goes who seeks to float a scheme and raise money. Well, in England we find that the capital created and issued in 1833, was less than one-fourth of what it was in 1889. Does not that show stringency in the money market? Most assuredly it does. But I am glad to know that in the month of February past the trade and commerce between England and Canada has very materially improved, and is to-day more than it has been for some time, which is proof positive that we are gradually and surely working again into a more successful trade than we have experienced for some time past. I may seem, Mr. Speaker, to be drawing a rather dark picture, but I feel assured it is but right that we should consider all these matters, because they afford us tangible proof, if such be required, of this remarkable way in which Canada has stood the crisis. And how proud we ought to be that this country of ours is now hopefully looked forward to by every individual who wishes to build up a home for himself in the New World where he will have some prospect of obtaining an adequate return for his labour and investment. In view of certain reports which have been put in circulation concerning the great North-west, and which may tend to retard the current of emigration there, it may be well that I should allude to certain facts respecting that country. Much of the depression in the province of Manitoba, and particularly in the North-west, is due to the low price of wheat. We know perfectly well that wheat throughout the world is now in a depressed condition. A large quantity is grown in India, Russia, the United States, and various other portions of the world. In some places it is grown so very cheaply that competition by us has become extremely difficult. I am sure, however, that the time is not very far distant when our farmers will be able to so diversify their farming operations as to overcome this difficulty. The following table will show the fluctuations in the value of wheat growing since 1890, in various states:—In the state of Illinois, the average value per acre in 1890, was \$11.22. In 1891 it was \$15.00; in 1892 it was \$11.91; and in

1893, \$5.61. In Missouri, in 1890, the value of wheat per acre was \$18.71. In 1891 it was \$14.05; in 1892 it was \$8.04; and in 1893 it was \$4.07. In Minnesota, wheat was worth, in 1890, \$10.29 per acre. In 1891 it was worth \$15.52 per acre; in 1892, \$7.44; and in 1893, \$4.50. In Northern Dakota, the value of an acre of wheat in 1890 was \$4.83. In 1891 it was \$15.25. In 1892 it was \$7.45; and in 1893 it was \$4.30. In our North-west Territories, it was raised from \$6.75 to \$11 per acre. As regards the cultivation of land, the average increase in area of cultivable land in the United States has been as follows:—

1871 to 1875	32 per cent.
1875 to 1880	34 do
1880 to 1885	19 do
1885 to 1890	7 do

or only 1½ per cent per year between 1885 and 1890, showing that the limit has been reached, and that the pioneers of farming industry must turn their attention to Canada. A great deal has been said about our farmers leaving their lands and going elsewhere, but it is well to remember that in many parts of Minnesota, homesteads were granted to farmers no less than five times, yet to-day that state is one of the most prosperous in the Union. We find to-day that hundreds of American farmers are settling in this country. All along the North-west, up about Edmonton, they are coming in quietly and steadily, and taking an active part in the development of the country. Hundreds are turning their attention to mixed farming, because they find that growing wheat alone will not pay; and I find, from statistics that I have recently obtained from the North-west Government, that the production of the farms is as follows:—

No. of Farmers.	Produced bushels of Wheat.	Cattle.	Pigs.
34	29,675	246	152
26	21,163	255	111
34	18,681	413	198
8	3,863	106	61
13	6,543	444	77
4	690	9	9

These statistics, which were gathered at various points in the North-west, prove beyond doubt the great agricultural development which is taking place in that country, and show that the time is not very far distant when farming will be carried on there as it is now in our eastern country, and the people will not give their attention entirely to the cultivation of wheat. The report of Mr. Crawford of Indian Head, which has been sent down recently, shows the following as regards Assiniboia. Thirty-three farmers had the following acres under crop: 5,512 acres.

Wheat produced	134,406 bush.
Oats do	28,258 do
Horses do	378
Cattle do	386
Sheep	448
Pigs	4,615

The same men have 6,485 acres ready for 1894. It is all very fine for people to disparage our country, but let them look at these facts and consider the matter quietly, and I am sure that they will unite in saying there is a great future before the North-west, and I hope the day is not far distant when we will have even a greater tide of immigration flowing into that country than we are now experiencing. We know perfectly well that there are great territories that have scarcely been opened up at all. There is the great Athabasca country. Thanks to the Minister of Interior, we have had recently a splendid report by Dr. McConnell upon that country, which report shows that there is there an area of over 200 miles in length, which has lying under it an enormous basin of petroleum. Consider how, when this is developed, it will add to the material resources of this country, it seems, at first thought, remarkable that it should have remained so long untouched. But it could hardly have been otherwise, because there was no railway construction to Edmonton until recently. We know what Pennsylvania has done in a financial way for the benefit of the United States, and we may rest assured that, as the Athabasca country is developed, it will do as much for Canada. Mr. Bowell, in his address at Toronto, said that Australia took no less than a million and a quarter dollars worth of coal oil last year. How gratifying if we, the people of Canada, could command the trade in this respect, not only of Australia, but also of China, Japan and India, where, up to the present time, nothing like petroleum has been discovered. We have an additional stimulus to the development of our country in the resources of the North-west. We want to develop every productive industry in our country. We require money to keep us going, and, rely upon it, with the resources behind us, we have no reason to fear that the finances of this country will be in any other than a prosperous condition in the future, as they are at the present time. As regards the United States, permit me to say before leaving that point that in reading *The Forum*, only a short time ago, I was very much impressed with an observation made by one of the leading men who is also known as a statistician of the highest repute, with reference to Canada. Mr. David A. Wells refers to Canada in these terms:

In the Dominion of Canada separated territorially from us on the north by an imaginary line, there has been no panic, no unusual demand for money, no stoppage of industries, no restriction of trade, no increased rate of interest; in short, nothing beyond the ordinary course of events, except so far as these events may have been influenced by contiguity to what may be termed a financial cyclone whose pathway of destruction was contiguous but not within its own territory.

Mr. Speaker, that expression of opinion with reference to Canada and the people of Can-

ada, and the future prospects of this country, from so able a statistician as Mr. Wells must be extremely encouraging. It is in this way that the best men of the neighbouring republic regard us to-day. They are taking lessons from our institutions, they are lulling at our fountains of learning, and they estimate the value of our institutions by the prosperity of our people. I trust the day is not far distant when they will arrange their tariff so as not only to meet their own requirements, and develop their own resources, but also to co-operate with us in advancing the great principle of trade on the North American continent. With reference to the great arbitration which has just been held, before concluding, permit me to say that it should be a source of entire gratification and satisfaction to the people of this country to observe its results. There is no doubt the matter has been arranged most satisfactorily to the people of Canada. We had great pride in the plenipotentiaries who went from this country, and we know that the manner in which they discussed all the questions that came before them, the skill and ability they displayed won for them distinction, not only from the people, but from Her Majesty as well. The great question above all others in this conference was that of peace, and that has been accomplished; peace has been secured, and a striking evidence given of the progress of civilization. We have now pelagic sealing; we have no *mare clausum*. We know that in 1885-86 there were some half-dozen vessels fishing in these waters which caught seals only to the value of about \$100,000, whereas during the conference some fifty vessels were engaged, and that trade had advanced to about \$500,000. The Asiatic and American shores, and to within sixty miles of the Pribyloff Islands are free to us, so that the energy and ability of the gentlemen who had this subject in charge have afforded our hardy fishermen an opportunity of not only materially advancing their own interests, but also helping on the resources of our entire Dominion. I feel that this question has been decided in a manner which the people of Canada may regard with a high degree of pride and satisfaction. As regards the tariff, we know that it is a very vexed question, and how it is to be determined this House will soon know. I have not shared the secrets of any member of the Government, but I think the people of Canada, living on the border of a highly protected and industrially developed country, such as the United States, must consider the whole question of the tariff fully, calmly, and dispassionately. It is not a question that can be settled in a day. We must have a revenue to meet our expenditure. If the principles of free trade were introduced, where should we be? We should be in the same position as they are now in England, and should be obliged to levy

taxes upon our people. In that country they have an income tax; no man can shoot a bird, or even take a feather from its tail, without being subject to a tax; no man can catch a fish in any small stream without being taxed. But to-day in Canada, we are free in these particulars. And why are we free? Because thirteen years ago the principles of protection, moderate protection to meet the requirements of our people, and to carry on the affairs of our country, protection so arranged as not to press unduly upon a community, not to thwart the efforts of manufacturers, but to broadly subserve the best interests of this country, and advance its material prosperity, were recognized. And I feel sure that when the tariff is brought down, the men of common sense in the Dominion of Canada will acquiesce in the sentiments which emanate from those who have authority, and that the tariff for this country will be of such a discriminating character, will have so much power in its principles, will so tend to advance the material interests of our people, as to give entire satisfaction to all classes of our people. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say that the Dominion of Canada is a noble heritage which has descended to us from the achievements of the various nationalities which make up our people. We have a prosperous country, we have an energetic, pushing, and self-reliant population, and, judging from the traditions which our ancestors have left us, I think our own people are fully able to work out their own destiny. Density of population or extent of country are not everything. If we look back over the pages of history, what do we find? India, with a population of two hundred millions, controlled by a few Anglo-Saxons, China with as many millions of people as there are days in the year—what influence do they exert on the progress of civilization, on the advancement of society, or in the councils of the nations? Brazil and Mexico, with even a greater population than Canada—where are they to-day so far as regards their influence in the world? When we consider little Canada, as we are called, with our five millions of people, what do we find? We find that a few days ago our plenipotentiaries distinguished themselves at the seat of learning in Paris, where they met those other great counsellors, and they came back here having established for themselves a name and a reputation which lead us to believe, and which lead the people of the world generally to acknowledge, that in Canada we have a class of men who are well able to guard our interests and to protect us in the widest and most comprehensive sense of the term. It is a grand thing to live in the spring time of a nation; it is a great thing to be at the fountain head of the great stream of national existence, flowing on with every season and gaining

momentum with the lapse of time. Little events sometimes disturb nations; we know perfectly well that expression of opinions sometimes interfere with the prosperity of a country; and for that reason, no matter what side of the House we occupy, be we Reformer or be we Conservative, we owe it to our country to protect its interests and its people; we owe it to our country to utter nothing that will be detrimental to its interests, we owe it to our country to guard it in every particular, both at home and abroad. With these ideas before us we may rely upon it that the young oak of Canadian nationality, planted but as yesterday, will spread out until it extends from one end of the Dominion to the other. Let us hope that the dew-drop on the very leaf of the acorn will never generate the sap of religious antagonism, bigotry or sectionalism, will never develop racial differences, will never develop anything but what will tend to advance the best interests of Canada; and in that way, and in no other way, we will become bound together as one people. When I look around this Chamber to-day and observe the seats that were once occupied by great men whose voices are now hushed, it seems to me that a phonetic power emanates from these walls to-day that binds us together as one.

When I think of a Macdonald, a Cartier, a Mackenzie, and a Dorion, the quadruple powers of intellect, activity, intelligence, and perseverance; when I think what these men did for this country in years past, how they formed by their energy and ability the very warp and woof of that structure upon which to-day rests the civil and religious liberties of this country, I feel constrained to ask, have we not reason to feel proud of what has been accomplished? Let us look forward now to a unity of effort and a unity of design, and irrespective of political considerations, with no other object in view but the advancement of the material interests of our country, let us perpetuate the fair name of Canada, let us endeavour to continue it as a colony of which the Government of Great Britain has reason to feel proud; because I feel assured that among the territorial dominions of Her Majesty there is not one that occupies a higher position than Canada. Sir, I wish its people the greatest possible degree of prosperity, and God-speed.

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